

Higher education a vital force for economic competitiveness, societal development

The public investment in higher education produces great societal and economic benefits, including reduced costs for social services, lower crime rates and higher general levels of economic prosperity, a white paper prepared by the HECB indicates.

Presented at the Board's January meeting, the white paper provides evidence that state expenditures for welfare, medical care, and unemployment benefits drop dramatically as education levels rise.

Rising levels of education in a specific region or state also produce generally higher levels of wages throughout that economy, which increase tax revenue and improve the prospects for further economic development. [Read more.](#)

Financial assistance totaling \$1.62 billion served 132,000 state students in 2007-08

According to the annual report on financial aid delivered at the January Board meeting, more than 132,000 Washington students received a total of \$1.62 billion in financial assistance during the 2007-08 academic year.

About 51 percent of the aid was in the form of loans; 47 percent in the form of grants; and 3 percent in work study funds.

State financial aid totaling \$216 million was distributed to about 82,800 students attending 99 colleges and universities in 2007-2008.

About 83 percent of state financial aid is distributed through the State Need Grant program to students from families with very low family incomes. State Work Study and other scholarship and loan programs make up the remainder of state financial aid.

A national survey ranks Washington fifth in the nation in terms of state student grant aid funding per undergraduate enrollment. [Read more.](#)

Greater institutional alignment, improved information flow needed to support transfer

Over the last 15 years, the number of students transferring from two- to four-year colleges in Washington has increased to more than 15,000 annually.

About 40 percent of those who earn bachelor's degrees in Washington have completed at least 40 credits at a community or technical college, and nearly 70 percent of these students have completed an associate or technical degree.

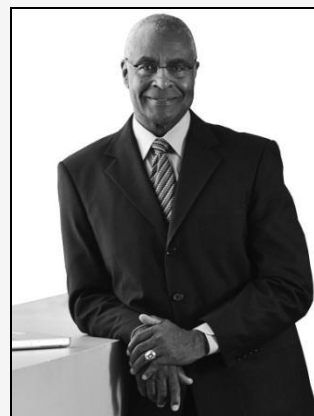
Nonetheless, only about half of the students who enroll in community and technical colleges intending to transfer to four-year institutions actually do so. A report on transfer and articulation presented to the Board proposes two initiatives to improve the rate of transfer success.

[Read more.](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

A report on the January 23 Board Meeting

**Report highlights
changes in state
tuition policies,
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**HECB honors Dr.
Charles Mitchell, former
Chancellor of Seattle
Community Colleges,
for his years of service**

**New degree program:
Master of Clinical
Health Services and
Extended Master of
Clinical Health Services,
University of
Washington**

**New Key Facts report
offers wealth of
information about
college enrollments,
student demographics,
financial aid in
Washington higher
education**

Executive Director's Report

Ann Daley, HECB executive director, reported on recent activity in the Washington State Legislature.

- The HECB is managing an 8 percent cut in its general-fund supported administrative budget for FY 09 through unfilled positions, travel reductions, equipment purchases and contracted services.
- College Bound Scholarship signups are at 3,472. Combined with last year, that totals over 20,000 applicants.
- Proposed Senate Bill 5174 would freeze tuition levels for individual students but require them to pay subsequent increases if they fail to graduate within an agreed upon time.

Tuition discussions taking center stage

In light of Washington's current fiscal crisis, it is not surprising that state-level discussion about tuition is once again taking center-stage.

A report on tuition prepared for the Board shows a shifting emphasis over time in state tuition policy – from a broad cost-sharing approach to one that has transferred much more of the cost of education to students and parents.

Proposals are being advanced in the Legislature that would charge graduated rates of tuition linked to family income; and for high-tuition/high-aid packages.

This report provides perspective to help institutions and policymakers as they confront these difficult decisions. [Read more.](#)

Accountability report notes progress

In recent years, public baccalaureate institutions sustained “steady, modest” growth in bachelor's degree production and similar growth rates in graduate and professional degrees, according to the HECB's Higher Education Accountability Report for 2007-08.

Modest growth in high-demand bachelor's degrees also is occurring, with more expected in the next few years when enrollments funded earlier this decade have been in place long enough for students to complete degrees. [Read more.](#)

Change in statute would allow HECB to offer a higher education retirement plan

Proposed legislation (SB 5308) would authorize the HECB to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans. The HECB is the only higher education agency (college, university, or related board) in the state of Washington that does not have the authority to offer its employees a purchased annuity and retirement income plan, also known as a higher education retirement plan.

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD



Meeting the need for qualified math and science teachers: PESB's Jennifer Wallace reports on progress

Summary of Governor's proposed budget: significant cuts but institutions allowed discretion in how to implement them.

Mark your calendars: The HECB will hold its next Board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

**9 am -12 noon
HECB & Advisory Council
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Regular Meeting**

**State Investment Board
2100 Evergreen Park Drive
SW, Olympia**

**Check back after Feb. 12,
for agenda items at:
www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp**

On the preliminary agenda:

- Budget policy discussion
- Skilled and Educated Workforce report
- Tuition policy discussion